

DIARY NOTES

DD/S
JHL

31 July 1961

1. At the Deputies' Meeting this morning:

a. The SRS Staff in the DD/I Area and those individual personnel assigned thereto were discussed again. It is my understanding that plans to abolish this Staff are still being made and that positions in the Agency or elsewhere are trying to be found for these people. I expressed my opinion that the chances for finding these positions at present salaries were not at all good and that we would do well to face the facts now and recognize that these people were going to have to take a substantial reduction in their salaries.

b. The Director alluded to a new 5412 procedure involving the approval of covert action projects. It is my understanding that the Department of State is definitely to approve all covert action projects as being consistent with National policy, and if any member of the 5412 Group does not approve of a particular project, the matter is to be presented to the President for resolution. In this connection the 5412 Group has asked that they be briefed on all current covert action projects, and Dick Helms is making the arrangements.

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2. [] advised me that he had been requested to go to Los Angeles on Wednesday, 2 August, to consult with Pat Hyland who is a consultant to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board; Mr. [] from OSI is going also. I approved of this trip since it has been requested by Mr. Kirkpatrick.

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3. John Warner was in to tell me that he thought there was a great deal of foot-dragging in the Clandestine Services in connection with the surplus personnel exercise. Emmett Echols has previously expressed the same opinion to me. (On 1 August I telephoned Dick Bissell and told him that it was the impression of our Personnel people that the Clandestine Services were dragging their feet in this exercise. He expressed some surprise to which I told him that there was some resistance on the part of some people below his level. He thanked me for the tip-off and said that he certainly intended to see this matter through and that he would get right after it.

4. Matt Baird was up to talk to me about a number of items:

a. The first item to be discussed was the JOT Program and Matt submitted a report to me which I had asked for by 1 August on this subject.

The report is not satisfactory and I have turned it over to [] 25X1A9A for further study during my absence on leave. I told Matt that I also wanted

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[] report on the JOT incidents at [] forwarded to me by 25X1A6A

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formal memorandum stating the position of the Director of Training in this matter and what action had been taken.

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b. We discussed the problem of [] and Matt felt quite strongly that we should abandon this training station.

c. I also discussed his surplus personnel list and asked him to give this some more thought before taking a final position on the individual people and the people to be declared surplus.

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6. I had two or three telephone conversations with []--all of which were unsatisfactory--about his upcoming retirement. Despite the explanation that I had given to him a few days ago, he somehow had the idea he was being fired. He resented it very much and was most irrational in his expressions of dissatisfaction. After consulting with General Cabell, [] and John Warner, I advised him that if I had his written application for retirement in my hands I would remove his name from the surplus list entirely. I have now received his written application and I have instructed Harry [] to remove his name from the surplus list. (As an outgrowth of this case we have agreed tentatively on a procedure which would offer anyone eligible for retirement an opportunity to remove his name from this exercise by filing a formal and written application for retirement that would become effective within a reasonable date. The details of this have not been worked out, but we have agreed in principle. I want to follow up on this as soon as I return from leave.

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7. Matt discussed with me the possibility of deferring [] retirement. I told him that I would like to know what Bill's plans were inasmuch as I did not think that we could keep him on until he was seventy years of age. He is not indispensable and Matt should have someone else trained to take over this program. Matt agreed to go back and ask Bill to present some sort of plan. I declined to take any action on an extension until this has been done.

LKW:mam

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